

# INSPIRATIONAL TALKS FOR YOUTH



COMPILED UNDER THE DIRECTION  
OF THE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC

By PRESTON NIDLEY

it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father! And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!" ("Doc. & Cov." 18:5, 6.)

In the light of these gems of revealed truth the labors of the missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are seen to have eternal weight and significance. So it is well for them to review frequently the purposes and promises of the Lord that are contained in the Scriptures, for it will surely tend to idealize their work and be a continual source of comfort and inspiration to them.

—Hugh Ireland.

### THE IDEAL YOUNG MAN

"A man can not aspire if he looks down. God has not created us with aspirations and longings for heights to which we can not climb. Live upward. The unattained still beckons us toward the summit of life's mountains, into the atmosphere where great souls live and breathe and have their being."—Marden.

"As a man's ideal or aspiration, so shall his life be."

It is said man is a dual being. My ideal is triple; physical, intellectual, spiritual. In order to become an ideal, a young man must select and combine all the beauties and perfections of different individuals,



excluding all that is defective. Such was the Apollo of the Greeks, which, it is claimed, was a perfect illustration or model of physical manhood.

A young man may not attain to the generally accepted height and measurement necessary to become a model of beauty; yet, by proper observance of the laws of life, obtain a body so filled with health and vigor that a degree of perfection in intellectual and spiritual development may also be attained.

The physical must stand first. Without a good body, all the powers and faculties will be blighted. As well might we expect to pick luscious, beautiful fruit from a tree whose roots were poorly developed, or a rich harvest from an impoverished soil, as to anticipate rare intellectual and spiritual results from a diseased body.

The ideal young man, then, must be strong in body, and as near as possible physically perfect.

To have a splendid physique, embraces many virtues. It is brought about by right living for one thing. The ideal must have trained his appetite so that it is perfectly under his control; so that it will not crave food or drink that destroys or emaciates the body, or wrecks the nerves. That means that he must eat and drink in conformity with the wise counsels of the Lord, who has given us splendid pointers in modern revelation touching our mode of life, in this respect. The ideal is one who can walk and not faint, run and not be weary, and whose appetite is under the supreme control of a pure mind. As he controls his eating and drinking, so also does he

govern his passions. He flies into no rage, no matter what the provocation; is temperate in language, thoughtful of the weak, always upright and sympathetic, and uses his strength to help the weary and sustain the less fortunate. He is pure as the mountain winds, and uses the vigor and vitality of his noble manhood to useful ends, for the good of the race.

He abstains from the vices and follies of young men who have no regard for the fountains of strength and life, but indulge in every whim of wickedness that unrestrained passions suggest. He respects his fellows, and considers sacred as his own body, those of his associates of the opposite sex. He realizes that he was not made for himself alone, but for society, for mankind, and for God.

The ideal young man is not lazy, shiftless, fearful of labor; but on the contrary cultivates a healthy activity, and works to a purpose, having an aim, and bending all his energies to accomplish it; is frugal in his habits, saving, and lays by a part of his earnings, realizing that he thus accumulates power to accomplish good, for money is a representation of physical power. He provides well for those who are dependent upon him; is thrifty, delighting in his work which he does with a cheerful spirit. While he pays particular attention to those with whom he is immediately connected, he accustoms himself to send his thoughts abroad over the wide field of practical benevolence.

He takes an interest in the surroundings of his home, the garden, the trees, the lawn, and spends



some of his odd hours in beautifying them. His habits are good, and not expensive, for he is aware that better results accrue by plain living than from luxurious excesses, and he feels that the balance between excess and comfort may be turned to useful ends for others.

He is considerate of his mother, and steps aside to give his father the place of honor, whether at home or abroad; and when meeting father or mother on the street, shows his respect by raising his hat to them. He is determined to learn to work, and to do well what he learns, never shirking, always in the front; having a full realization that work, some useful work, is the one great cause of contentment and happiness in this world. To this end he has learned a trade, obtained a good business training, or perfected himself in some profession; or has become an intelligent tiller of the soil, avoiding the slipshod methods of farming of which we see so much.

"Thinking, not growth alone, makes perfect manhood. No possession is so productive of real influence as a highly cultivated intellect, combined with a large and noble soul."

The ideal young man must be educated. He must learn to think, read, meditate, and to judge justly, that he may be prepared intellectually, physically and morally for useful occupation and labor, and to be a champion in the cause of truth and virtue. In this way he will learn to look upon life in the best light, and be able to see, enjoy and comprehend,

where the uneducated grope blindly and unfeelingly through the journey of this world.

Education of the proper kind has given the ideal young man good manners, enabled him to use tact, granted his self-confidence, nerve, grit, pluck, persistence. These assist him in the formation of true character.

Among the most important requirements of my ideal young man is this, that he must be a broad-minded Latter-day Saint, possessing a testimony founded upon reasons which he can intelligently state, having a proper training in the principles of the gospel, being conversant with the virtues of the life of Christ, and a seeker after them. He must not be a narrow theorist, but a liberal man of practice, who not only sympathizes with the unfortunate but helps them in their afflictions, and who keeps himself pure and unspotted from the sins of the world. He must be trained in the theory, and proficient in the practice of forgiveness, love, mercy, charity—a true lover of the human race, full of faith and cheer and hope. His spiritual nature must be fully developed, so that in the contemplation of spiritual things he may take pleasure that never cloy. He is in no sense gross or material. He enjoys poetry, art, nature; and from and through these, beholds God in all the universe.—Improvement Era.

### HAVE LOFTY IDEALS

No one can respect himself or have that sublime faith in himself which makes for high achievement